

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure, comprising:  
a layer of metallized polyester ~~capable of~~ withstanding a retort process at a  
5 temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading;  
a layer of polyester laminated to one side of the layer of metallized  
polyester, the layer of polyester being ~~capable of~~ withstanding the retort process at a  
temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading; and  
10 a layer of cast polypropylene laminated to an opposite side of the layer of  
metallized polyester, the layer of cast polypropylene ~~being capable of~~ withstanding the  
retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially  
degrading.

2. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the  
layers are laminated to one another using solvent-based retortable laminating adhesives.

3. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the  
layers are laminated to one another using solventless retortable laminating adhesives.

4. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the  
layer of polyester is printed with ink on the side of the layer of polyester that faces the  
layer of metallized polyester.

5. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the  
polyester layers comprise polyethylene terephthalate.

6. A flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure, comprising:  
a layer of metallized polyester ~~capable of withstanding~~ a retort process at a  
temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading;  
25 a layer of cast polypropylene laminated to one side of the layer of  
metallized polyester, the layer of cast polypropylene ~~being capable of~~ withstanding the  
retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially  
degrading.

117 8. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the layers are laminated to each other by a solventless retortable laminating adhesive.

10. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the metallized polyester layer comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

12. A flexible non-foil based retort package, comprising at least two opposing portions of the packaging structure of claim 2 having peripheral edge portions of the opposing portions heat-sealed together so as to form a pouch configuration.